

MINUTES
TAYLORS FALLS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
City Hall, Council Chambers
Monday, December 28, 2020

The Agenda for this Meeting was posted Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at City Hall, the Post Office, and on the City's website. Copies were emailed to residents requesting such, and the Press was notified.

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Mike Buchite.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag was recited.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Mike Buchite, Ross Rivard, Larry Julik-Heine, Mary Murphy, John Tangen

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Elizabeth Nealley (Clerk-Treasurer), Lisa Daniels, Troy Aanonsen, Greg Marsten (Inter-County Leader), Sonja Miers

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council Member Murphy added a 7th New Business item - Refinishing the Community Center floors. Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve the amended Agenda for the Monday, December 28, 2020 Taylors Falls City Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Rivard / Tangen to approve/accept the following Consent Agenda items: Minutes from previous meetings; Staff reports; Commission, Board, or Committee minutes/reports; Approval of claims and payroll; and Correspondence.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

STAFF REQUESTS

COMMISSION, BOARD, OR COMMITTEE MINUTES/REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

Consider proposal from AEM regarding audit preparation (tabled at 12/14 meeting)

Mayor Buchite explained that these end-of-year audit expenses would cost up to \$3,000.00, but since Clerk-Treasurer Nealley could take care of some of the necessary items, the cost would be less. She will be trained on some of these items later in the year.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to approve the proposal from AEM regarding audit preparation at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Resolution 20-12-01 adopting final 2021 Budget and Tax Levy 2020

Mayor Buchite commended the Council for all their hard work on the budget. He mentioned that the 2021 city tax rate would be 59.376%, in comparison to 18 years ago when the rate was 102%.

Motion by Rivard / Murphy to adopt Resolution 20-12-01 (Final 2021 Budget and Tax Levy 2020). Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Resolution 20-12-02 reestablishing precincts and polling places

Although there are no elections scheduled for 2021, the City Council must reestablish the precinct and polling place each year.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Tangen to adopt Resolution 20-12-02 to reestablish the precinct and polling place at City Hall, 637 First Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Conflict of Interest Statement

City Attorney Patrick Kelly provided a Conflict of Interest Statement to be signed by all who are affiliated with the City including, but not limited to Council Members, Staff, and volunteers. Mayor Buchite explained the document and discussion followed.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to adopt the Conflict of Interest Statement and signatures of all affiliated with the City including, but not limited to Council Members, Staff, and volunteers. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from Fire Department for new tires and wheels on unit 5

Council Member Mary Murphy explained the Fire Department's request for new tires and wheels on unit 5. Discussion followed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Rivard to approve payment to Langness Enterprises in the amount of \$1,892.00 for new tires and wheels on unit 5, to be paid from first the equipment fund, with the remainder to come from the general fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider allowing City Staff to carry over PTO hours to 2021 due to Covid crisis

Mayor Buchite explained that City Staff had problems using their PTO time in 2020 due to the Covid situation, and were requesting to be allowed to carry over more than the normally allowed 40 hours to 2021.

Motion by Murphy / Rivard to approve the request from City Staff to carry over more than 40 hours of 2020 PTO to 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider continued employment of temporary Administrative Assistant

Mayor Buchite explained that the temporary clerical worker had only used up around \$1,600.00 of the previously approved \$3,000.00 allotted to complete the filing and sorting work left behind by former City Staff. Progress has been made, but there is still more work to be completed.

Motion by Julik-Heine / Murphy to approve the continued employment of the temporary Administrative Assistant into 2021 until the full amount of \$3,000.00 that was approved in August is used up. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider refinishing the Community Center floors

Council Member Mary Murphy explained that the Community Center floors typically need to be refinished every 2 or 3 years and it is time to have them done.

Motion by Rivard / Julik-Heine to approve a payment of \$3,188.00 to Exquisite Wood Floors to have the Community Center floors refinished. Motion carried unanimously.

LIAISON OR COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mayor Mike Buchite

- explained that the County owns the road down the hill (First Street), and that the Council will continue to call Chisago County about doing a better job of plowing and keeping it from getting too slippery. He encouraged all residents to call the County as well, as this might get them to make it a priority.

- said that there was a rumor going around the City that the Council wanted to defund the Sheriff's Department and have no police presence in Taylors Falls. This is not true. This is a distortion of comments from the 12/14/20 City Council Meeting. He said they are open to discussing options, but not open to any kind of defunding of law enforcement services in Taylors Falls. The Mayor said: "If you started the rumor - shame on you. If you shared the rumor, shame on you."

- said that this would be the last meeting for Council Member John Tangen and that it had been a real joy and pleasure working with him for the last 18 years. He explained that he was the only Council Member to never lose a vote. The Mayor commended him for his hard work and dedication to the City. He brought out that often people don't realize or appreciate how much work, time, and dedication it takes to do the job correctly.

Ross Rivard

- said that he hates to see Council Member Tangen go. He said that he has done a great job and he has been an asset to the City.

Larry Julik-Heine

- said that working with Council Member Tangen was a pleasure. He always comes prepared, speaks to the issues that benefit the residents and the City, and he always checks his agenda at the door. He said that he will miss him and that he gives him all fives.

Mary Murphy

- said that Council Member Tangen was a friend and that its going to be hard not seeing him sitting there. She has appreciated working with him immensely for the last 11 years.

FINAL REMARKS AND ADJOURNMENT

At this point, Mayor Buchite turned the meeting over to Council Member John Tangen.

Council Member Tangen said that the last 22 years on the Council were an amazing experience. He thanked the citizens for putting their faith in the Council, the amazing City Staff, and the other City Council members. He said that despite coming from different places politically and religiously, they all get along because the main thing they are concerned with is the welfare of the City. He brought out that the Council Members all check their politics and their ego at the door, and that in all the time he had served on the Council he had never worked with anyone who had an agenda. Council Member Tangen said he would miss them, but he would not miss Monday night football anymore.

Council Member Tangen then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Murphy / Julik-Heine to adjourn the meeting of the Taylors Falls City Council held this Monday, December 28, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Michael D. Buchite, Mayor

Elizabeth Nealley, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED

Monday, January 11, 2021